

Description

[DATA TRANSFER METHOD FOR UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS DEVICE]

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) device, and more particularly, to a data transfer method for a USB device.

[0003] Description of the Related Art

[0004] The Universal Serial Bus (abbreviated as USB) is a connection interface used in the peripheral device of a computer device such as a desktop computer, a notebook computer, and a Personal Digital Assistant (abbreviated as PDA). Since it is hot-swappable, the user can easily add the peripheral device into or remove it from the computer device, and the desktop computer, notebook computer, and PDA can automatically detect the peripheral device for maintaining its normal operation while it is being added

into or removed from the computer device. Therefore, the USB interface has been widely applied in the peripheral device such as a keyboard, a mouse, a network adapter, and a printer. Moreover, since it is convenient in adding or removing the peripheral device using the USB interface as a computer peripheral device, a storage device using the USB interface has been developed to facilitate the data transfer and data sharing between different computers.

[0005] There are four kinds of transfer type transmission defined in the USB protocol (include bulk, control, interrupt and isochronous). The most familiar transfer type transmission is bulk transfer. The bulk transfer type transmission is commonly used in the USB storage device for transmitting a great amount of data. The bulk transfer type transmission has a USB hand shake mechanism, thus it can guarantee the correctness of the data transfer. However, among various USB transmissions, since the bulk transfer type transmission cannot guarantee the data transfer bandwidth, when several USB devices are using a USB simultaneously, the bandwidth of the device using the bulk transfer type transmission is distributed and shared by all USB devices in the USB and the transfer rate is degraded.

[0006] FIG. 1 is a transfer rate sharing diagram of a USB which

connects to different number of the USB devices using the bulk transfer type transmission. It is assumed that the maximum data transfer rate for the USB is 48 Mbytes/sec, and there are A, B, and C three devices each having only a bulk endpoint. In FIG. 1(a), where only device A is connected to the USB, the data transfer rate of device A is up to 48 Mbytes/sec. In FIG. 1(b), where both devices A and B are connected to one USB and use the USB simultaneously, the shared data transfer rate for each device A and B is 24 Mbytes/sec, respectively. In FIG. 1(c), where all device A, B, and C are connected to the USB and use the USB simultaneously, the shared data transfer rate for each device A, B, and C is 16 Mbytes/sec, respectively. In other words, when the number of the USB devices connected to the USB increases, the data transfer rate for each USB device is decreased due to the shared bandwidth, thus it cannot meet the desired expectation.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0007] In the light of the preface, it is an object of the present invention to provide a data transfer method for a USB device. The method detects a data transfer rate of a bulk transfer type transmission in the USB first, and when the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in

the USB is lower than a predetermined value, the method selects an interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device, so as to ensure the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized.

[0008] In order to achieve the object mentioned above and other advantages, the present invention provides a data transfer method for a USB device. The method comprises: connecting a USB device to a USB; detecting and determining whether the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is lower than a predetermined value; and if the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is lower than the predetermined value, swapping to use the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device, so as to ensure the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized.

[0009] In an embodiment of the present invention, the data transfer method for the USB device further comprises: when the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is not lower than the predetermined value, the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device is used.

[0010] In an embodiment of the present invention, the data

transfer method for the USB device further comprises:
when using the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device for a predetermined period of time, swapping back to use the bulk transfer type transmission to transfer the data in the USB device for trying to use a higher transfer rate to transfer the data in the USB device.

[0011] In an embodiment of the present invention, the predetermined value set in the data transfer method for the USB device is preferably a data transfer rate which is guaranteed by the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB.

[0012] In summary, by applying a data transfer method for the USB device provided by the present invention, a data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is detected first, and when the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is lower than a predetermined value, an interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB is selected to transfer the data in the USB device, so as to ensure the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0013] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a

further understanding of the invention, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate embodiments of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0014] FIG. 1 is a transfer rate sharing diagram of a USB which connects to different number of the USB devices using the bulk transfer type transmission.

[0015] FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a data transfer method for the USB device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. 3 is a transfer rate sharing diagram of a USB which connects to different number of the USB devices using the bulk transfer type transmission and the interrupt transfer type transmission.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] As mentioned above, the bulk transfer type transmission is commonly used in the USB storage device such as the flash disk for transmitting a great amount of data. However, since the bulk transfer type transmission using the USB cannot guarantee the data transfer bandwidth when multiple USB devices use one USB bus simultaneously, the bandwidth of the USB is distributed and shared by all USB

devices inserted into the same USB bus and accordingly, the transfer rate is degraded . Therefore, in order to resolve the above problem, a data transfer method for the USB device is provided by the present invention. The method is suitable for a USB device which predefines two sets of descriptor, wherein one set defines the USB device as a bulk endpoint, and the other set defines the USB device as an interrupt endpoint, so as to ensure the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized while still maintaining the general characteristic of the USB device.

[0018] FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a data transfer method for the USB device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. As shown in the diagram, in step S210, whether or not a USB device is inserted into a USB host is detected, that is whether the USB device is connected to the USB is detected, if yes, the process enters into step S220 for detecting and determining whether or not the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is lower than a predetermined value.

[0019] When it is determined in step S220 that the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is lower than the predetermined value, the process enters into step S230 for swapping to use the interrupt transfer

type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device. Because having the USB hand shake mechanism, the interrupt transfer type transmission of the USB guarantees the correctness of the data transfer, and it is also a transfer type that guarantees the transfer bandwidth among various USB transmissions. Therefore, no matter how many USB devices are connected to the USB simultaneously, it is guaranteed that a certain data transfer bandwidth is reserved. Therefore, it is ensured that the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized even when the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is degraded.

[0020] Referring to FIG. 3, a transfer rate sharing diagram of a USB connecting to different number of the USB devices using the bulk transfer type transmission and the interrupt transfer type transmission is shown. It is assumed that the maximum data transfer rate for the USB is 48 Mbytes/sec, the data transfer bandwidth reserved for the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB is 24 Mbytes/sec, and there are four devices A, B, C, and D, wherein each of the devices B, C, and D has a bulk endpoint. As shown in FIG. 3(a), when devices A, B, and C are use one USB simultaneously, the shared data transfer rate

for device A used in the data transfer method for the USB device according to the present invention is 24 Mbytes/sec, and the shared data transfer rate for each device B and C is 12 Mbytes/sec, respectively. As shown in FIG. 3(b), when devices A, B, C, and D are using the USB simultaneously, the shared data transfer rate for device A used in the data transfer method for the USB device according to the present invention is still 24 Mbytes/sec, whereas the shared data transfer rate for each device B, C, and D is 8 Mbytes/sec, respectively. In other words, it is ensured that the data transfer rate of device A used in the data transfer method for the USB device according to the present invention is 24 Mbytes/sec.

[0021] Referring to FIG. 2, after swapping to use the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device in step S230, the process enters into step S240 for determining whether or not the predetermined time is due. If the predetermined time is due, the process enters into step S250 for swapping to use the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB to transfer the data in the USB device attempting to use a higher data transfer rate to transfer data. The reason for having this step is because the number of the USB devices connected

to the USB is dynamically changed. Therefore, when the number of the USB devices connected to the USB is decreased or the required data transfer bandwidth is reduced, the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is higher than the predetermined value again. Meanwhile, the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is used to transfer data, such that the USB bandwidth is fully utilized.

[0022] In addition, if it is determined in step S220 that the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is not lower than the predetermined value, the process enters into step S250 where the bulk transfer type transmission in the USB is used to transfer the data in the USB device.

[0023] Wherein, the predetermined value set in the data transfer method for the USB device is preferably a data transfer rate which is guaranteed by the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB, for example, 24 Mbytes/sec as mentioned above. Therefore, when using the data transfer method for the USB device provided by the present invention to transfer the data in the USB device, it is possible to select a transmission method with a higher data transfer rate between the data transfer rate of the bulk transfer

type transmission in the USB and the data transfer rate of the interrupt transfer type transmission in the USB, so as to ensure the transfer bandwidth thereof is better utilized.

[0024] Although the invention has been described with reference to a particular embodiment thereof, it will be apparent to one of the ordinary skill in the art that modifications to the described embodiment may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention will be defined by the attached claims not by the above detailed description.